



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
NORTHEASTERN REGIONAL FIELD OFFICE
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USDA to Conduct Potato Stocks and Processing Surveys

HARRISBURG, PA – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is encouraging producers and agribusinesses to respond to two upcoming surveys – the Potato Stocks Survey and the Potato Processing Survey – that are critical to the potato industry.

Potato Stocks reports are used by all parts of the potato industry to aid in the orderly movement of the crop. Farmers use the reports to decide when to sell their crop. Shippers, processors, and brokers monitor crop movement to help decide when to buy and when to ship. Transportation firms need information on the location and volume of production. The chipping industry needs stocks by type to gauge the supply of potatoes suitable for their products. Many agribusiness firms use stocks and production reports as they provide services to the industry. The United Potato Growers of America use stocks data to update and improve their marketing plan as the season progresses.

The Potato Processing Survey will be conducted concurrently with the Potato Stocks Survey. In recent years, the majority of potatoes grown within the U.S. were utilized for processing, and most potato exports consisted of processed potatoes. Data collected includes the total quantity of potatoes processed as chips, frozen french fries and other frozen products, starch, flour, other dehydrated potatoes, canned potatoes, and other potato products.

NASS will publish the results in the December 19, 2018 Potato Stocks publication. The publication will be available on the USDA-NASS website at <https://www.nass.usda.gov/>.

NASS gathers the data for the survey online, by mail, and through phone and in-person interviews. "The cooperation of potato growers and processors is crucial to ensure that your State's potato crop is accurately represented in National potato production statistics," explained King Whetstone, director of the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office. "NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only State- and National-level data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified," stated Whetstone.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Northeastern Regional Field Office at (800) 498-1518.

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